

THE REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN.

The final debate to decide who should represent the University of Nebraska in the Kansas-Nebraska debate next May occurred Saturday evening, December 8th. Much interest was manifested in the contest, as was shown by the large audience present. Each speaker was at his best, and the arguments advanced were the result of a careful investigation of the subject.

The program was opened by a piano solo by Miss Triplett, which was well received. The question debated was, "Resolved, That Canada Should be Annexed to the United States."

AFFIRMATIVE.

E. B. Sherman,
E. O. Barr,
A. J. Weaver,
E. McNeal.

NEGATIVE

C. Barr,
C. M. Skiles,
H. J. Whitmore,
P. J. McGuire.

The judges were Hon. A. W. Field, Hon. Sam Cox, and Mr. Parks.

After an interesting discussion of two hours the debate was closed. While the decision of the judges was being determined, Miss Turner favored the audience with a vocal solo. After some delay the decision was announced. Messrs. Weaver, Sherman, and McNeal will go to Kansas, with Mr. Whitmore for alternate.

Mr. Sherman, '95, opened the debate for the affirmative. He is a fluent talker and is thoroughly at home upon the stage. His delivery and manner of opening the debate were excellent. He said that the question should be argued from the standpoint of a true American, avoiding all selfishness. Two divided countries are a menace to each other and therefore should be united. The population of the two countries is largely kindred in nationality. Nature has made them a political unity. The commercial interests of both demand political unity, because a commercial unity and a political unity are inseparable. True American patriotism demands a political union. The foundation of these arguments cannot be denied, said the speaker, and upon these fundamental planks he built his argument.

Mr. Weaver, '95 was also on the affirmative. His success as a debater is due largely to his thorough preparation and his able and forcible manner of presentation. He has a remarkable clear way of stating his points and clinching them when once made. Answering his opponents and shattering their arguments is his forte. The first part of his debate was taken up in answering the arguments of the negative. He showed

that the union would not produce diplomatic complications but would avoid them. It would not complicate politics for all local government is vested in the separate states. The great agricultural West would not be injured but benefited. The debt question will not be a burden, for public improvements are constantly diminishing this load. The French-Canadians need cause no alarm. They have been assimilated in Louisiana, and in New England and in New York, there are 500,000 who make good citizens. Mr. Weaver then took up his own argument. Nature has made Canada and the United States physically one. This was recognized by the fathers in the Articles of Confederation and many eminent statesmen since that time. The two countries should be commercially one, but there can be no complete commercial union without political union. Physical and commercial conditions alone would not justify the union, but the similarity of the two peoples in institutions and language warrants it. Three-fourths of the Canadians are English and the other one-fourth are French Canadians who can be readily assimilated. Our perpetual peace policy and our policy of a small standing army demands the union. The same benefits will accrue to Canada as to the United States.

Mr. McNeal, '95, is an excellent debater, if he don't look like it. He goes to the bottom of a question, and is loaded for any point that may come up. He emphasized Mr. Sherman's point that nature had made the two countries a physical unity, and held that the question should be discussed from an American standpoint, and not as regards which country would gain or lose by the union. He showed that Canadian industries were owned largely by citizens of the United States, and cited the Canadian Pacific railroad as an example. The stock of this road is owned in the United States, and both termini are in the United States. Political parties are divided on the tariff and other questions in Canada as here, showing the similarity of the two peoples. Mr. McNeal devoted much attention to the Catholic question, and left the impression that his view was the correct one.

The University of Nebraska is to be congratulated on having three such able debaters to represent her in the first contest with Kansas. Of course they are at a disadvantage in having to address a strange audience with few supporters, and in having to select one of the five questions—bad ones at that—which have been presented by Kansas. It will, however, be our turn next year.

